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Fury as road to nowhere gets major repair work

'Why is the council concentrating on the sideroads when the main roads are in such a drastic condition?'

REPORT
 by HUGH BOAG
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

A row has broken out after a stretch of single track road had £8,000 of resurfacing work carried out.

Road workers spent a day in Glencloy near Brodick resurfacing a stretch of road which only leads to the small car park at the Glencloy Camp Site, beyond which there is only a footpath.

But at the same time on sections of main roads on the island there are repeated calls for action to repair pot holes and collapsing verges, the String Road being a particular concern.

Glencloy resident Iain Small said: 'They have all their priorities wrong. Why are they spending £8,000 resurfacing up Glencloy when the String is in such a state. Does that

road up there even belong to them or is it Arran Estates?'

Mr Small was also angry that the whole of the Glencloy road was shut last Thursday without many of the residents being informed by letter, although the work was on the North Ayrshire roads website.

'There are more than 30 households in Glencloy and anyone I have spoken to was not informed directly about the road closure,' he said, although the council insists those nearest the works were informed.

Concern was also expressed at the recent Arran Community Council about the fact that the roadwork schedule for the coming months includes a number of what are seen as low priority works including the path leading to Lochranza Castle and the pavement at the bridge at Lagg.

One community councillor



The Glencloy resurfacing work on the road to nowhere. 20_b19road01

asked: 'Why is the council concentrating on the sideroads when the main roads are in such a drastic condition?'

However, following a meeting with the council works were agreed for the String which recent figures showed carries 10,000 vehicles a week.

Shiskine representative Neil Arthur said: 'Some works have been agreed for the String although these are mainly from Brodick to the

summit and I would argue that there are stretches over the Shiskine side which are just as dangerous.

'At least there are no 10-week closures as we have seen the past two years which is a plus, but investment is urgently needed for the B880.

'There is also concern in the longer term that money will not be available for the timber fund if the forestry lorries are using the Machrie road rather than the String.'

Works are due to start on

the String between Balgowan and North Feorline for five days on Monday when the road will be between 9am and 4pm, however, at that stretch of road a diversion is available.

Mr Arthur added: 'I am concerned that a modified bus timetable for the roadworks has not been confirmed.'

A North Ayrshire Council spokesman said: 'Essential carriageway resurfacing works were recently under-

Continued on page 2

Emergency exercise in Brodick

Brodick will resemble a scene from an action film on Tuesday night but residents need not be alarmed.

It will be the result of a multi-agency major incident exercise which will take place Brodick Pier.

The exercise will start at 8.30pm and will run for around three hours. There will be a large number of emergency service vehicles driving to and from the pier, and also at the pier, for the duration of the exercise.

There may be smoke from the pier area, however, there is no reason for the public to be concerned as it is all part of the exercise.

All relevant emergency service control rooms will be aware of the exercise should anyone try and report an incident.

The objective of the exercise is to test the Arran Resilience Plan. And there is still time if any island residents wish to get involved. Members of Arran's drama groups have already signed up to play the part of casualties but more are still needed.

Police Scotland is the lead authority for the exercise with Sgt Allen Dodds in command, while CalMac port manager Colin McCort will be exercise director.

*If you want to volunteer contact Lamlash police office.

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Alcohol Focus Scotland and North Ayrshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership are organising small group discussions (lasting a maximum of 90mins) to learn about what helps people living in North Ayrshire overcome alcohol problems, and what makes it more difficult.

A group will be held in Brodick on Wednesday 20th May, 1.45 – 3pm in Brodick Hall.

If you would like to take part, please email gemma.crompton@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk, phone 0141 572 6704 or text 07768 557247, giving you name and the group you'd like to attend. **Please register in advance to attend a group.**

We will refund travel expenses to attend the group. Refreshments will be provided!

Lamlash Co-op to double in size

Plans are at an advanced stage which would see a significant expansion of the Lamlash Co-operative Food store which is expected to be completed by mid September.

As well as doubling the floor space, the new store will have an in-store bakery and more of the range and services of the main Brodick shop.

Planning permission has been sought from North Ayrshire Council for the single storey extension to the side of the existing shop.

It will give the shop an additional 187 sq m space of which 121 sq m will be used for trading.

The application for planning consent was sent to the

West of Scotland Archaeology Service as the application site falls on the northern fringes of an Archaeological Consultation Trigger.

This was defined in relation to a small square tower that was recorded as standing in the vicinity of Whitehouse, which may have been constructed as part of the defences of the harbour at Lamlash.

Evidence
 Various other features have also been identified from the area to the south, including evidence for early settlement in the form of worked flints.

However, the service says the potential for the current development to affect material associated with earlier



The site of the new Co-op extension. 20_b19coop01

phases of occupation appears likely to be limited.

Their reply to the planning officials went on: 'Not only is the Co-op store located well clear of the recorded site of the tower, but it is also the case that the proposed extension would be constructed on ground that has been subject to a certain amount of previ-

ous disturbance. As a result, I would not consider this proposal to raise a substantive archaeological issue.'

A spokesman at the Co-operative headquarters in Manchester confirmed that a planning application had been submitted and that work would start when it had been approved.

Road to nowhere gets major repair work



An angry Iain Small at the Glencloy road closed sign. 20_b19road02

Continued from page 1

the road outside their properties would be closed. 'All improvement works to the council's road network are thoroughly assessed to ensure that we achieve the maximum benefit from our investment.

'We are aware of the local views regarding the condition of the String Road and have devised a three-year road maintenance plan for Arran which we will be consulting on in the future with the relevant stakeholders.'

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'All improvement works to the council's road network are thoroughly assessed to ensure that we achieve the maximum benefit from our investment.

'We are aware of the local views regarding the condition of the String Road and have devised a three-year road maintenance plan for Arran which we will be consulting on in the future with the relevant stakeholders.'

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Anger at theft of four sculpture plaques from woods

There is anger this week at the senseless theft of four plaques from Merkland Wood in Brodick.

The brass plaques, which are financially worthless, have for the past 10 years explained the sculpture work of Tim Pomeroy in Dan's Walk in Brodick Castle Country Park.

There were four plaques mounted in stone. Each described, in brief, the name of the sculpture and something of its context within the place and ecology of Merkland Wood.

They were painstakingly inscribed by Tim's wife, the artist Josephine Broekhuizen, when he installed the sculptures in 2006.

However, last week a member of the ranger service noticed one of the plaques had been forcefully removed and on further inspection found all four had been stolen.

Head ranger Kate Sampson

said: 'I am really angry and the most galling thing is that the brass in the four plaques put together is only worth about £1.50. But they meant a lot to the people who use the walk and enjoy the sculptures.'

'Whoever took them obviously thought they were worth money, but if they now realise they are worthless perhaps they will just throw them away.'

Police have been notified of the theft and are investigating.

The plaques each have a title, followed by the descriptive inscription if anyone comes across them. They are:

☐ Golden Rain described gilded raindrops on the bedrock in one area emphasising the importance of the amount of rain.

☐ Canticle described the common names of some of the flora and fauna in Merkland and how the very



Kate Sampson beside the missing plaque for the Canticle sculpture. 20_b19plaque01

names themselves read like a poem,

☐ Crozier described the unfurling fronds of bracken and ferns and suggested something of religion and ritual in their title.

☐ Leaf described the beauty of the structure of a leaf.

Dan's Walk is named after Arran naturalist Danny McNicol who started the conservation of Merkland Wood.

The 2.7km path winds its way through mature oaks and huge sandstone boulders carved by ancient seas and contains Tim's four sculptures reflecting on the woodland.

Anyone with any information should contact Arran Police on 101 or the Ranger Service.



The plaque with the Golden Rain inscription which has been stolen.

Summer bridge results

Results of the Arran Bridge Club summer bridge competition held on Monday 4 May were as follows: N/S 1 Tricia Martin and David Campbell; 2 Linda Trickett and Elizabeth McKellar; 3 Alison Bilsland and Elbe Lang. E/W 1 Margaret and Douglas Bruce; 2 Jessmay Peacock and Eendy McNiven; 3 Anne McKelvie and Brenda Livingstone.

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(2014 Cert 12)

Corrie Film Club's May offering is a wonderfully affecting film by Iranian director Asghar Farhadi.

The Past is an engrossing, tight-knit family drama as gripping as any thriller. Following a four-year separation, Ahmad returns to Paris from Tehran to finalise a divorce from his estranged wife Marie. During his stay Ahmad discovers tensions in Marie's relationship with her daughter but his attempts to build bridges between them creates conflict with Marie's new partner, Samir, and soon unveils a secret from the past. See this compelling film at Corrie and Sannox Village Hall on Sunday 10 May. Everyone welcome. Bring a bottle to share if you wish. Admission free, but a donation to the hall from non-members is always welcome.

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The Corrie seal outside Marvin's workshop. 20_b19seal01

Corrie seal washed away again

Arran's famous Corrie seal has been washed off his perch again.

Just 14 months after he was fixed back on his rock he has gone walkabout, or should that be floatabout, again.

This time, however, he did not cross the Firth of Clyde but just made the short swim to the Corrie shore after he was washed away in strong tides on Tuesday.

He is recovering outside the workshop of his sculptor creator Marvin Elliot who has

vowed to return him to his rightful place on the foreshore.

He said: 'The bolts holding him to the granite have just sheared. We will have to find longer bolts and hopefully he will stay there for longer when we put him back.'

It was in February last year that the seal was washed away after standing for 12 years. He was found just 24 hours later on the beach at Turnberry 30 miles away. He was later returned to the island and re-fixed to his rock.

Hall momentos being sought

Kilmory Hall was opened in July 1935 by Her Grace, Duchess of Montrose and to celebrate the hall is having a 80th birthday party on the 24 July.

As a result it is looking for information and photos on past events, and believe there must be some good stories of what happened in the Southend in years gone by.

If anyone has anything of interest to add to the display the hall committee would be delighted to borrow them.

Please contact Jean Clark on 870345 to collect them or hand them into the hall.

Missing budgies

An elderly man has appealed for help after his two precious budgies went missing.

The man, who lives in the Lamlash sheltered housing complex in Mackelvie Road, noticed them missing on Monday. One is black and white and the other is blue.

Anyone who finds them is asked to telephone: 600166,

Summer sailings finally start but are three days late

The MV Isle of Arran finally started summer sailings last Sunday three days after it had been due in service.

A propeller problem stopped the second ferry on the Ardrossan to Brodick route making its scheduled start

last Thursday and throwing the May Day holiday weekend into chaos.

There were long queues as Caledonian MacBrayne staff tried desperately to squeeze all the car bookings for the Isle of Arran on to the MV Caledonian Isles.

To cover the demand, an extended timetable and larger capacity services were introduced with the main ferry

running to an extended timetable

The MV Lochinver, with its extra capacity, also replaced the smaller MV Loch Tarbert on the Claonaig to Lochranza route.

Apologise

CalMac's operations director Drew Collier said: 'We apologise for any inconvenience the MV Isle of Arran being out of service may

have caused the travelling public, and we worked extremely hard to get her back on the Arran route as quickly as possible.'

The start of the summer crossing from Ardrossan to Campbeltown, due to start on April 30, was also postponed until this week.

A CalMac spokesman explained the delay to the start of the Isle of Arran. He said: 'It was a problem with a propeller hub seal that necessitated replacement parts being manufactured to order.'

Trophies return

Arran Music Festival has made a renewed plea for the return of cups and trophies from the winners at last year's event.

Anyone still to hand in trophies should return them to their school, Lamlash Dental Surgery or phone 302625 to arrange collection before 15 May.

Real rescue after training exercise

The Arran Mountain Rescue Team had a real emergency to deal with after a training exercise last Sunday.

Members had just returned to their base at Cladach when they were called out to assist a camper who had become stranded as a result of the burn being in spate in Glen Sannox. The team scrambled Argo Cat to reach the person and get them across the burn to safety.

Earlier the team had been involved in a joint exercise with Police Scotland.

A mock search was conducted in the Coire Chatan area on the south west side of Goatfell to look for a 'casualty'. He was located near the top of the Rosa slabs with help from the team's search dog Ruby, stretchered off the hill then evacuated by the team's Argo Cat.



The rescue team put the 'casualty' in a stretcher.

Island gardens to open for charity

Gardens big and small are taking part in the charity Scotland's Gardens this summer.

The Brodick Castle gardens will be open on Thursday 14 May, 18 June and 16 July at 7pm when head gardener Tim Keyworth will take tours around this famous garden.

A new garden, The Glades in Whiting Bay, will be open on Sunday 7 June where visitors can also have delicious homemade teas.

Dougarie Estate gardens will be open on Sunday 29 June, with teas in the 19th century Boathouse. Pirnmill Village Association will be the recipients of 40 per cent of the takings from Dougarie and Whiting Bay Improvement and Village Hall for the Glades. Everyone is most welcome to come and enjoy the gardens and support these good causes.

Scotland's Gardens is a charity which raises funds for Maggie's Caring Centres, the Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland, the Gardens Fund of the National Trust for Scotland and Perennial (formerly the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society). Some of Scotland's most remarkable and beautiful gardens are open to the public under this organisation and 40 per cent of the funds raised at a garden opening are donated to a charity nominated by the garden owner.

A fascinating aerial journey

Ayrshire artist Jim Hardie has brought his touring Signposts exhibition to Arran.

The exhibition, described as 'a fascinating aerial tour', tells the story of the rebuilding and flying of a vintage aeroplane, Nord 1101, which helped Jim develop his voice in painting, films and poetry.

The pilot and ex-Glasgow School of Art tutor's exhibition

is on at Brodick Library until the end of May. Or you can follow Jim's Signposts to his larger exhibition at the Harbour Arts Centre in Irvine.

Eventful life

Details of Jim's book, *The Naked Pilot*, a look back over his eventful life and career, is also available to view and to order.



Jim Hardie puts the finishing touches to his exhibition. 20_b19art01

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Arran Quakers on the road

Arran Quakers will be going on the road. Meetings are normally held in Brodick Library on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, and in members' homes at other times, but this summer they are going to move around the villages to places where they don't usually meet.

They hope this will give more people the opportunity to meet local Quakers, and find out something about Quaker faith and practise. There will be an opportunity for discussion, followed by a period of Quaker worship, based on communal silence.

A spokesman said: 'It is not our intention to try and influence people's beliefs or persuade them to our way of thinking, rather to let them know what we are about, how our faith influences the way we live and how we relate to others. We welcome those of all faiths and none.'

The first meeting will be in the grill room at the Kinloch Hotel in Blackwaterfoot on 10 May, followed by Corrie and Sannox Hall on 14 June, Kilmory Hall on 12 July and Lochranza and Catacol Hall on 9 August. Meetings will start at 11am, except for Lochranza, which be at 2pm.

Night of music



Erin and Molly McNiven perform with Davie Hunter.

20_b19music01

Musicians on Arran recently got together for a traditional night of music and song at the new Black Grouse bar and restaurant in Blackwaterfoot.

They were joined by Davie and Margaret Hunter and other visiting musicians and singers from Girvan for a second year.

There was also a performance during the evening by young violinists Molly and Erin McNiven.

Organiser David Napier said: 'It would be good if this could become a regular event.'



Arran musicians perform on traditional instruments.

20_b19music02

Arran has first forest church in Scotland

A new fresh expression of church will start on Arran this Sunday afternoon.

Although it is something new, Arran Forest Church will be drawing on much older traditions when sacred places and practices were outside.

On Arran, interesting precedents include ancient worship in the stone circles at Machrie Moor, the Sannox Congregational Church which worshipped for 20 years in the open air before it built the present church and the gatherings in the Preaching Cave at Kilpatrick 200 years ago.

About 20 forest churches have begun in different parts of the United Kingdom in recent years, but Arran Forest Church will be the first in Scotland.

It will not be just a normal church happening outside, instead it attempts to participate with God's amazing creation on Arran.

Four monthly gatherings will be taking place over the summer months on Sunday afternoons at 2.30pm as follows: Sunday 10 May, Fairy Dell, meeting at Newton Shore car park, Lochranza; Sunday 21 June, Machrie Moor Stone Circles, meeting at car park; Sunday 19 July, The King's Cave, meeting at Forestry Commission car park; Sunday 16 August, Glen Sannox, meeting at Stepping Stones car park.

For more information contact David Pott on 830317 or email dlpott@gmail.com or ring Mike Daniels on 07789 296036.

Teenager admits causing car crash

A TEENAGE driver has pleaded guilty to crashing her speeding car into a river and injuring a passenger.

Hayley Burton, 19, lost control after failing to take a bend on Ross Road and ended up in the water at Sliderry.

Burton, of Lainshaw Square, Kilwinning, admitted driving without due care and attention and at excess speed.

Passenger Gemma McNicol was hurt in the accident in May 2014, Kilmarnock Sheriff Court heard.

Sentence was deferred until a later date.

The complete solution to all problem weeds

ADVERTORIAL

If you are looking for local help from a national company you need look no further than Complete Weed Control.

A specialist in Japanese Knotweed, they can provide a complete solution to the eradication of all problem weeds which they have been doing for more than 40 years.

Japanese Knotweed is increasingly becoming a critical issue to homeowners and businesses across the UK and Europe. The presence of these unwanted and destructive plants can devalue land and property and can even lead to the refusal of mortgages on properties that are blighted by them.

Its spread has been a recurring problem on Arran for a number of years, as a result the Glasgow franchise of Complete Weed Control will be on the island later this month and are happy to arrange an

appointment with you to discuss your weed control needs.

Established in 1972 the Complete Weed Control operates as a franchisor with 48 UK based franchisees and a further two operating in the Republic of Ireland.

Experience plays a major factor in successful treatment. Knowing when and how to apply the appropriate product can speed up eradication and save time and money.

The Complete Weed Control structure gives the organisation enormous scope and flexibility in resourcing contracts as required.

To underpin this, all franchisees are contractually obliged to support central work on major accounts ensuring that each area can call on the resources of others should there be any issue with contract delivery.

As well as Japanese Knotweed they specialise in the control and eradication of invasive weeds including Himalayan Balsam, Giant Hogweed and Ragwort.

Their work is government-endorsed under the Invasive Weed Controllers TrustMark standard.

In addition they are able to supply an Insurance Backed Guarantee for their work should it be required.

Their clients include government departments, local authorities, public utilities, golf courses, amenity leisure areas as well as commercial sites.

So for peace of mind and for a complete solution, call the longest established amenity weed control company in the UK and Ireland.

Please call Richard Newall on 0141 620 1115 or email: chardnewall@cwcc.uk.com for further details.

The complete solution to Japanese Knotweed

For over 40 years Complete Weed Control has offered a specialist contract service for the eradication of all problem weeds.

Japanese Knotweed is increasingly becoming a critical issue to homeowners and businesses across the UK and Europe. The presence of these unwanted and destructive plants can devalue land and property and can even lead to the refusal of mortgages on properties that are blighted by them.

We specialise in the control and eradication of invasive weeds such as Japanese Knotweed. Our work is government-endorsed under the Invasive Weed Controllers TrustMark standard. In addition we are able to supply an Insurance Backed Guarantee.

We also carry out work for all other weed control sectors including hotels, large houses, gravel drives, small holdings and industrial units.

Complete Weed Control will be visiting the Isle of Arran in May, June and August this year and are happy to arrange an appointment with you to discuss your weed control needs.



complete weed control



Please call Richard Newall on **0141 620 1115** or email **richardnewall@cwcc.uk.com** for further details

www.completeweedcontrol.co.uk
www.completeinvasivescontrol.co.uk

THE ARRAN BANNER

A common sense approach

An elderly man visiting Blackwaterfoot this week remarked: 'Aren't the roads just terrible.'

It is a comment which is regularly repeated around the island but more recently for anyone using The String it has become an oft repeated phrase.

The twisty road, which is full of pot holes and crumbling verges, is perhaps worst coming out of Brodick from the cemetery to the summit, but there are stretches of the road on the Shiskine side which are also a danger.

But they are probably all the more noticeable by the wide smooth surfaces of the two middle sections, the latest completed just last year.

And there is justifiable anger at the time it is taking to get something done.

The reaction to the fiasco which we report this week of the needless spending of £8,000 on a stretch of road in Glencloy, which is not even helping a single householder, is not surprising.

And it does seem odd that works to improve the path to the castle at Lochranza and the bridge at Lagg seem to be taking priority over some of the vital, major works needing urgent attention.

Of course it is not as simple as that. The roadworks are all tied up in budgets and funding and programmes of work and the bureaucracy which surrounds it.

But there also has to be common sense. Works are planned for the Shiskine end of the String, starting next week, to be followed next month by works at the Brodick end.

This year there will be no need for 10 weeks of works and 24-hour road closures as has happened on the String in the past and that is to be welcomed.

What it also means is that the works will be piecemeal and that sort of patching up may not be to everyone's liking.

But is heartening to hear from the council this week that it has a devised a three-year road maintenance plan for Arran which they will be consulting over.

Lets hope it may lead to a situation in the future when the comments are 'Aren't Arran's roads great!'

We're not holding our breath.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Remember this; whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each person should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.' (2 Corinthians 9: 6-7)

press policy

WE AT the Arran Banner endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@arranbanner.co.uk; telephoning the senior reporter on 01770 302142 or write to the Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timeous, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can either telephone IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body which deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers and magazines. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 200 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on e-mails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters Page, The Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran. E-mail editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Letters to the Editor



Machrie appears to be the only option

Sir,
I attended the most recent community council meeting in Brodick on Tuesday 28 April.

It was apparent to me, that the council takes its responsibilities seriously and I was very impressed with the commitment, attention to detail and knowledge of the members present.

However, this was in stark contrast to the representatives from the Forestry Commission. I was expecting to hear about costed options and full details of the various proposals. None of this happened, instead we were effectively told that the Machrie option was essentially the only possibility because a large landowner was willing to agree a lease on the wrong side of the main road ie inland. I was further shocked, when the only real response to a very sensible question was, and I quote: 'I have not come here to be insulted.'

What a pathetic response to a simple request for more detail. As to detail, the only real piece of information from the Forestry Commission was, that the Machrie option will save 186,000 miles over each 10-year period. Since Machrie offers a saving of only three miles, when compared with the String Road option, that means that there will be far more than the 1,000 timber transfers per year.

Based on the Forestry Commission's own savings figure, it means between 2-3,000 transfers per year! Clearly, the Forestry Commission cannot now be trusted.

Yours,
Ian Clinton
Daisybank
Shiskine

Corrie coincidence

Sir,
You had a good piece in the Banner in January 2014 with pictures of the otter now known as Corrie, whom I rescued after a tidal surge.

Corrie was successfully

released back on Arran on Thursday 23 April. I set up a stall at the Brodick Market, given without charge by Ernest, to raise money to help support Corrie at the Hessilhead Wildlife Rescue Trust.

Information and pictures have been posted regularly on the stall, to show Corrie's progress.

HWRT and all of us at the Brodick Market would like to thank all those who helped raise more than £200 by giving goods to sell at the stall and to those coming to the market and buying them.

All of the stall holders have a keen interest in the welfare of our wildlife so we will continue to run the stall, all proceeds going to HWRT.

The last email from HWRT is posted on the notice board.

If you would like to see a short video of Corrie's release it is on HWRT Facebook.

On Friday 24 April when I got home from the market, swimming back and forth just offshore in front of my house was an otter. Coincidence?

Yours,
Rita Salmon,
Corrie

Half the price

Sir,
A recent item in The Banner about Arran being voted the top Scottish island included something which was news to me.

Apparently 'those looking for a splash of luxury could consider Kilmichael Country House Hotel, which is available to book on TripAdvisor at an average of £400 a night'.

In fact, our most expensive suite, with four-poster bedroom, separate sitting room and two bathrooms is actually half that price. Mind you, since shopping in our country in recent years has become ever more like bargaining in a souq, perhaps we should advertise at the price you quoted and offer a 50 per cent 'discount'!

Yours,
Geoffrey Botterill
Kilmichael Country
House Hotel
Brodick

Editor's note: The Banner printed the information sup-

plied by TripAdvisor in good faith.

Wear it wild

Sir,
WWF is calling on people of all ages to make a stand for nature, and 'Wear It Wild' on Friday 5 June.

We're challenging the nation to dress as wild as they dare - whether sporting animal-print socks at work, leopard leotards on the school run, or go all out in a wild onesie; we want to see your wild side. As well as raising awareness about threatened species, any money raised will help support WWF's work to tackle growing pressures on our natural world and its precious wildlife.

This is especially important because in the last 40 years we've seen wildlife populations decline by more than half. The number of tigers in the wild, for example, has reduced by 95 per cent in the last century. As WWF's recent Living Planet Report highlights, thousands of other species are also threatened, and we need your support to show you care and .

The only rules for Wear It Wild are: sign up at wwf.org.uk/wild, share #WearItWild, and be as wild as you dare ... only fake fur please!

Yours,
Lang Banks
Director
WWF Scotland

THE ARRAN BANNER ... on holiday



The Banner on holiday is back

The popular Banner on Holiday feature has had a bit of a break itself.

But since it started seven years ago, we have been absolutely overwhelmed by the number of fantastic photographs of our readers that have come through the doors.

That's why it makes a welcome return this week with a splendid photograph taken in Koh Lanta in Thailand where Adrienne and Stevie McGill from the Recycle Furniture shop in Auchrannie Road were attending their son's wedding.

Over the summer we'd be delighted if Arran res-

idents and holidaymakers can ensure that they pack their copy of The Banner to keep up with local issues when they go on holiday.

Don't forget to pack your copy of the Banner if you are going 'off island'.

It could be from Warwick or Wagga Wagga, it really doesn't matter; we would love to see your photographs.

When space permits we will continue to print the photos that we have on file.

Please send them to us either by email to editor@arranbanner.co.uk or to The Arran Banner, Douglas Centre, Brodick, KA27 8AJ.

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Stained glass workshop held



Richard Le Clerc teaches the art of stained glass work.

Richard was 'a brilliant tutor'

The April workshop held by Arran Visual Arts was on the art of stained glass.

Twelve participants over two days were guided, under the expertise of the talented Richard Le Clerc, in his fascinating workshop at Claddach. In this beautiful setting, Richard led them through the various processes of suitable design, glass selection and cutting, the use of traditional lead, and soldering.

Many of these skills were new to them but Richard patiently encouraged each of those taking part and afterwards 'inspirational', 'stimulating', 'a brilliant tutor', were just a few of the few

comments made. Helped along with laughter and a few expletives, a finished piece of stained glass was achieved by everyone.



A stained glass work underway at the workshop.

The wonderful glass pieces in Richard's gallery are testimony to how lucky the AVA members are to have been taught by him and they hope to return.

The next Arran Visual Arts workshop is on Saturday 23 May with Felicity Walker on improving painting skills and solving painting problems.

Places are still available. Phone Kathleen on 600827.

Please visit the Arran Visual Arts website for the 2015 listing of workshops, which are one a month. Bookings are now being taken for the full year.

Anyone with an interest in art and craft is welcome.

Free dog micro-chipping pop-up shop

A date has been arranged for the Dog's Trust to come to Arran with a pop-up free micro-chipping shop.

The island dog training club is to give it a donation to cover the costs of getting to Arran and obviously if owners can give a donation that will be gratefully received.

They will be on the island on Wednesday 9 September which will dovetail with an agility class at Sandbraes Park in Whiting Bay, or the village hall if it is very wet.

Kenneth Gibson MSP is also going to get behind this initiative as it becomes law next year that all dogs must be micro-chipped.

Anyone who needs more information can call Margaret on 600725.

This week at the Castle.....

EVERY TUESDAY

GARDEN WALK 2 - 3PM

Experience our horticultural highlights! Outdoor Clothing and stout footwear essential. FREE - (donations appreciated) Meet at Reception Centre

EVERY WEDNESDAY

ROUNDHOUSE OPEN 11AM - 3PM

Immerse yourself in Bronze Age life FREE with Country Park Entry plus £2 per craft activity. No need to book - Roundhouse sign posted from Reception

EVERY THURSDAY

PAINTINGS TOUR 2 - 3.30PM

Explore the castle history through its amazing art collection £5 with Castle Entry Booking Essential 01770 302202

THURSDAY 14TH

HEAD GARDENER'S EVENING TOUR 7 - 8.30PM

Join Tim for an exclusive evening tour of the Gardens in aid of Scotland's Garden Scheme £6 per person Please contact the Castle for more information

FRIDAY 15TH

WOOLLEN WOODS LAUNCH FROM 11AM

Be one of the first to walk the Woollen Woods Trail FREE with Country Park Entry.

PLEASE NOTE THE CASTLE WILL BE CLOSED FOR A PRIVATE FUNCTION ON SATURDAY 9TH MAY FROM 1pm The Gardens, Shop and Tearoom will remain open as normal

For more information contact the Castle 01770 302202 or the Rangers 01770 302462 brodickcastle@nts.org.uk



the National Trust for Scotland
a place for everyone

Scottish and North Irish Yeomanry undertake Exercise Island Wolf

The Scottish and North Irish Yeomanry (SNIY) is the newest cap-badge to have been created as part of the ongoing re-structuring of the British Army. SNIY is an Army Reserve Combat unit mounted in lightly armoured Land Rover vehicles fitted with heavy weapons and is in the process of converting to the 'Light Cavalry' role, along with its Regular paired unit the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

The 'Light Cavalry' role is to find, understand and influence on the battlefield, fighting for information if required to do so. Over the past 12 months, SNIY soldiers have been involved in a variety of overseas operations and exercises, including deployments to Afghanistan, Cyprus, Germany and the USA. The Regiment offers numerous opportunities ranging from vehicle drivers, commanders, heavy weapon gunners and telecommunication specialists, to doctors and medics, chefs and human

resource specialists.

Exercise Island Wolf is an opportunity for A (Ayrshire (Earl of Carrick's Own) Yeomanry) Squadron, SNIY based in Ayr to practise their new Light Cavalry role in the less familiar surroundings of the Isle of Arran. Arran provides challenges and opportunities not available on the mainland particularly in terms of logistics and communications combined with stunning scenery.

Its presence on Arran also provides an opportunity for members of the local community to engage with the Squadron and find out more about A Squadron, the SNIY and the wider Army Reserve, its roles, responsibilities and opportunities to get involved.

An Army Information stand will be set up at Whiting Bay Village Hall between 2pm and 4pm on Saturday 16 May to provide information about the Army, Army Reserves and recruitment and would welcome interest from members of the public and specifi-

cally Arran residents.

The SNIY executive officer, Major Chris Majcher, 30, said: 'This is the first time that SNIY soldiers have exercised on Arran and it promises to be a rewarding training package.'

'The involvement of HMS Gannet adds an extra dimension and I know those participating in the exercise will benefit from their time on the island. We are in the process of converting to the Light Cavalry role. This weekend will enable us to operate in a relatively remote environment and test the ability of our soldiers to operate at reach from our home base, a key tenet of the Light Cavalry concept.'

For further information on the SNIY, visit the Army website at <http://www.army.mod.uk/CombatRecce>

For further information about career opportunities available in the Army Reserve search "Join the Army Reserve" or visit <http://www.army.mod.uk/join/>.

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RECRUITING NOW

For more information come along to Whiting Bay Village Hall On Saturday 16th May 15 from 10:00am till 5:00pm

Or email: SNIY-CombatRecce@mod.uk



Search CombatRecce



ARRAN BIKE HIRE @ THE SHOREHOUSE

If you have a couple of hours to spare or are here for the week, we have a range of well maintained road and trail bikes for hire for adults and children.

We have panniers for hire for a load carrying cyclist. We offer discounted Bike Hire for Shorehouse guests.

Call on 01770 302377 or 07717845755 or check us out on www.arranbikehire.com



Make the most of Arran's wonderful forestry



www.forestry.gov.uk/arran

The Isle of Arran is one of the best places in Scotland to experience outdoor activities.

With its rugged mountains, sheltered coastline, lush forests and green fields - the island is a wonderful natural adventure playground.

With a number of well-established local businesses there is an opportunity to try something new and exciting: sea kayaking, sailing, abseiling and gorge walking to name just a few as well as the chance to explore some of Arran's most stunning scenery.

Arran Golf Pass

With seven stunning and unique golf courses, Arran is a paradise for fans of the beautiful game.

Arran's courses are all relatively close together but each one offers a very different golfing challenge, set in some of Scotland's most dramatic scenery.

For those wishing to play all of the island's courses the Arran Golf Pass is amazingly good value when compared to the cost of paying to play at each individual course.

It can be purchased from any of the courses and it costs just £99, offering one round of golf at Lamlash, Brodick, Whiting Bay, Machrie, Shiskine, Lochranza and Corrie as well as the Arran Driving Range at Balmichael. The pass is valid for a year so simply book your tee-time in advance by phone or online, turn up and play.

Arran Bike Hire

Why not enjoy cycling on the island with Arran Bike Hire.

They have a fleet of Giant trail and hybrid bikes of all sizes including children's bikes and tag along.

Significant parts of Arran's road network are challenging to off-road cars but their trail bikes are ideal for the task featuring Suntour XCT Front Suspension, Hayes Disk Brakes and wide ranging gearing is made for on-road hills and the off-road trails.

Hybrid bikes available are Giant City, Sedona and Escape with panniers.

The bikes are regularly maintained by a qualified bike mechanic so that you can enjoy the journey.

Arran has 15 mountain bike routes and nine road routes to suit most levels of experience and Arran Bike Club has done a great job of opening up new routes as well

as maintaining established paths.

So if you are interested in a leisurely cycle along the road to Corrie or a climb through the Clachlands Forest, Arran Bike Hire are ideally suited to get you there in comfort and safety.

Unfortunately, you do need to provide the pedal power!

Forestry Commission

The first view of Arran most people have from the ferry is of craggy Goatfell towering above the island with the green softness of low-lying forests all around.

A quarter of the island is forested and many of Arran's native animals and birds live in the woods.

The forests are the perfect place to see red squirrel and you won't be able to miss their busy forest activities at dawn or dusk.

Peaceful walks and gorgeous views are guaranteed from the top to the bottom of the island.

With ever-changing birdlife and plenty of archaeology to seek out too, you'll need more than a day to traverse all the Forestry Commission paths.

Arran Active

When enjoying all that the island's spectacular landscape has to offer it is important to make sure you have all the correct gear and Arran Active stocks everything from compasses to top-of-the-range walking boots.

With its handy location at the foot of the Goatfell path, the shop at Cladach is the perfect stop for castle garden strollers as well as hardy walkers tackling Arran's highest peaks.

The island's specialist outdoor shop has continued to expand its range of quality gear for 2015, particularly

in footwear. Sandals from Keen, Teva, Merrell & The North Face offer something for everyone, whether you are hill-walking, kayaking or just out and about.

There is also a wide range of walking boots and shoes. The friendly staff can offer great advice to make sure you get what is right for you. With clothing for all weathers, ages and budgets and regular special offers, an impressive range of camping gear, rucksacks, binoculars and accessories, you have everything you need to enjoy the great outdoors.

Brodick Castle Country Park

From summit to sea, the Arran Ranger Service looks after a wide variety of habitats and wildlife. Based at Brodick Country Park they can help you find out more about Arran's wildlife and conserving it.

Brodick Country Park has an 11km network of waymarked trails for you to explore, and for the more adventurous there's the further reaches of the Goatfell Property, including Goat Fell itself.

For a challenging experience you could try geocaching along the trails, or orienteering within the grounds of Brodick Castle.

Arran has a diverse array of wildlife including all of Scotland's 'Big 5' - golden eagle, red deer, otter, harbour seals and red squirrel.

The Ranger Centre at Brodick Castle has live cameras where you can see red squirrel, great tits and barn owls nesting.

Take a closer look at some of Arran's wildlife with one of the Ranger Walks, land rover safaris throughout the summer, including night time or landscape photography safaris.

ISLE OF ARRAN

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Arran Mountain Festival

Starting on Friday 15th May, the 2015 Arran Mountain Festival promises an inspirational four days of walks, talks and social events. This year's main evening event of the festival is a talk on Gaelic in the landscape and nocturnal walking by John Murray and Alan Rowan which takes place on Saturday May 16th at 7 p.m. at the Arran Outdoor Education Centre. John Murray will explore the wealth of information contained in the Gaelic place names that we see on Ordnance Survey maps of the Scottish mountains. Alan Rowan, author of "Moonwalker", will speak about his experiences climbing the Munros at night. Tickets for the evening including a la-

sagne supper cost £13.50 per person and are from the Book and Card Shop, Arran Active and online at www.arranmountainfestival.co.uk. Now in its ninth year, the Arran Mountain Festival has carved out a niche amongst walking festivals with a reputation for offering high quality guided mountain and ridge walks in small groups and giving participants an opportunity to reach places they never thought they could. Every year the organisers strive to include new routes as well as old favourites, including the option this year to walk up the extinct volcano of Ard Bheinn, south of the String Road. To participate in this year's festival, remaining spaces can be viewed and booked on www.arranmountainfestival.co.uk or via Arran Adventure on 01770 303304.

Arran Coastal Way

The Arran Coastal Way is a 65-mile circular route around the coast taking in a stunning variety of beaches, mountains and forests as well as a wealth of wildlife, heritage and cultural sites there is plenty to see and explore. But you don't need to be an intrepid explorer to enjoy the Coastal Way, as many of the paths can be walked in small sections, using other footpaths to make the walk circular or using the bus services to return to your car or accommodation. In 2014, the Arran Access Trust successfully secured substantial grant funding and in the last year, as well as maintenance and improvement work along several stretches of the route the project team have completed

several major projects. The whole of the Coastal Way route has also been re-signed using new waymarkers, featuring a gannet.

Woollen Woods

The community of Arran has been knit, knit, knitting (and crocheting) this winter and produced the most amazing woollen creatures. The creations will be displayed along a woolly trail in Brodick Country Park and in the Roots of Arran Community Woodland all through the summer. Arran Woollen Woods will be launched on 15th May by school children creating a felt flower meadow outside Brodick Castle. The event is part of Voluntary Arts Week, look out for adverts of workshops to find out how to participate.



The Arran Coastal Way is a 65 mile circular route around the coast of the beautiful Isle of Arran. With a stunning variety of beaches, mountains and forests as well as a wealth of wildlife, heritage and cultural sites there is plenty to see and explore. The wild walking is interspersed with unique villages boasting award winning hotels and restaurants.

To find out more, visit our website www.coastalway.co.uk or Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/ArranCoastalWay)

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www.facebook.com/ArranRangerService

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Isle of Arran Mountain Festival

VERY FEW WALK SPACES REMAINING!

15 - 18 May 2015

MOUNTAIN TALKS & SUPPER
Saturday 16 May, 7pm
Arran Outdoor Education Centre, Lamlash

John Murray
"Reading the Gaelic Landscape"
& Alan Rowan
"Moonwalking the Munros"

Adult £13.50, U16 £10 (with lasagne supper)
BYOB Tickets at Book and Card Shop, Arran Active and online
Bus available from Brodick - book online
www.arranmountainfestival.co.uk

Torrylinn Creamery is safe as First Milk unveils new plans

Arran escapes jobs axe as 70 posts go

First Milk, which owns the Torrylinn Creamery on Arran, is to shed up to 70 jobs in a bid to turn around its fortunes.

While a small number of job losses will be at their manufacturing sites, the proposed reduction represents up to 50 per cent of the roles within some their head office and support teams.

However, there will be no job losses at Torrylinn and the company has announced that milk producing farms on Arran will form a manufacturing pool for the creamery, making continued production look safe.

Reports

There have been recent reports that the future of the creamery was under review.

But it, along with Campbeltown, is now under the direc-

tor control of external liaison director Paul Flanagan.

He says he has been in talks with Arran's two dairy farms to draw up a new plan for a route to market. He said the plan was to get more of the Isle of Arran cheese produced at the creamery into higher value markets.

They have just secured new deals with Marks and Spencer and the Co-op and with the US, and a percentage of the creamery output will now be exported.

The company say that over the past nine months, First Milk and its farmer members have been impacted heavily by the unprecedented challenges facing the dairy industry. This backdrop has highlighted strategic and operational issues within the



The Torrylinn Creamery in Kilmory. 20_b19cream01

business that must be addressed.

Since his appointment a month ago, First Milk's new CEO, Mike Gallacher, has been working with the board and executive teams to develop a turnaround plan for First Milk with the goal of providing a better return to farmer members.

The aim is to develop a business that is focused on providing great service and

value to its customers; that is highly efficient; and is relentlessly focused on its core operations.

In a competitive global economy, this is the only guarantee of delivering a good milk price to farmers.

Consultation

First Milk has been looking at a wide range of opportunities to reduce costs and improve business efficiencies.

At meetings held at First Milk sites on Monday, the proposal to remove up to 70 job roles from the business was communicated to employees. There will be a period of consultation.

The collapse of dairy markets and the significant increase in milk volumes during 2014/15 exposed weaknesses

in First Milk's existing milk pricing system. From 1 June 2015, pricing will be based on net commercial returns from First Milk's manufacturing sites and customers.

As part of this, the tightest and closest milk fields have been identified which will be used to service those outlets most effectively.

There will be four manufacturing and three balancing milk pools: Farms located around Arran, Campbeltown, Lake District and Haverfordwest creameries will make up the manufacturing pools.

Farms located on the Scottish mainland, within Northern England, and the Midlands of England/ East Wales will make up the balancing milk pools.

Mr Gallacher said: 'None of the decisions have been taken lightly, but they are necessary steps in the process of rebuilding a secure and stable future for First Milk, its members and its employees.'

'As a team, our aim will be to provide every support for those impacted in the coming months.'

Important role

'First Milk plays an important role in many rural communities across the UK and continues to value the support it has received from all our stakeholders.'

'Our strategy is aimed at continuing to restore the health of First Milk so that we can support those communities through delivering better prices for their milk.'

Older People Housing Event

15 May 2015

9.45am - 3.30pm (approx)

Ardeer Neighbourhood Centre, Stevenston

Join us for our second annual Older People Housing Event. It promises to be another great day and we have a variety of guest speakers and fun activities including:

- Carers Role and Support for Carers by North Ayrshire Carers Centre
- Promoting Skills for Older People by University of the Third Age (U3A)
- Launch of new extended Care and Repair Extra Service by Cunninghame Housing Association
- 'Yesterday Once More' Reminiscence Session
- Tai Chi and Carpet Bowls
- Health Checks and Relaxation Therapy

The event is free to attend and is open to any older person living in North Ayrshire, please note places may be limited. A buffet lunch will be provided and transport to the event can be arranged on request.

Contact Lorna or Louise from Housing Services on **01294 324031** to reserve a place or for more information.



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath



Some of the members of the Fancy Feet group.

Best Foot forward for Nepal

Youngsters from the Fancy Feet group are trying to raise money for the Nepalese Earthquake Fund.

They are putting on a short show tonight (Friday) with their dance teacher Helen at the Community Theatre in Lamlash at 7pm.

There will be a donations bucket at the door and a raffle. Entry will be £2 for adults and £1 for children. All money raised will be sent to the disaster fund.

The last show raised money for breast cancer care.

Young gymnasts perform at UK's premier display festival

A small group of gymnasts from Arran recently attended the Gymfest at the Magnum Centre in Irvine.

They were picked up from the ferry and taken to the excellent Flipside gym of the Irvine Bay Gymnastics Club

for a short practise session before heading to the Magnum where the Arran group performed in front of a large audience.

They had all taken part in the three-day gymnastics camp over the Easter holiday.

The other performers were doing incredible back flips and tumbles which it is hoped the Arran youngsters will have a chance to learn when the Arran Gymnastics Club gets going.

Gymfest is an annual gymnastics display event run by Scottish Gymnastics. It is a non-competitive, professionally run display festival which aims to promote gymnastics for everyone and encompasses the sheer enjoyment and appreciation of the sport that so many people have.

Everyone is invited to enter Gymfest from the beginner to the advanced gymnast. They focus on ensuring that all performers have the opportunity to display their talents to their family, friends and other gymnasts in a stress-free and enjoyable setting.

The Magnum Centre is the current home to Gymfest and each year approximately 1,500 gymnasts, 300 coaches, 50 volunteers and 3,000 spectators literally invade the cen-



The Arran team perform at the Gymfest.

tre over the first bank holiday in May, to take part in what has become the UK's premier gymnastics display festival.

Arran team leader Zabi Keen said: 'We would

like to thank the Irvine Bay Gymnastics Club for sorting everything out for us. They changed the start of the show so that the team from Arran could perform and still get

back in time for the last ferry. 'The festival is getting bigger and better each year and we hope next year to have a big display team from Arran returning to enjoy the event.'



There was a 100 per cent attendance from Corrie Primary pupils in the Arran gymnastics team.

Family raise money at Kiltwalk

An Arran couple and their family recently took part in the Kiltwalk in Glasgow to raise money for charity.

John and Mary Dick from Whiting Bay, their son Alan and grandchildren Jamie and Toni, Aiden O'Brien, Macey and Muttley all took part in the Kiltwalk from Hampden Park in Glasgow to Loch Lomond, a distance of 26 miles. To date they have raised approximately £1,400 for Yorkhill Children's Hospital

and other children's charities.

Mary said: 'The journey was great fun and the entertainment along the way helped to keep everyone going. It took nearly nine hours but everyone made it to the finish and have the aches, pains and blisters to prove it.'

'The family would like to say a big thank you to all those friends who sponsored us on the walk and helped in raising such a great amount for children's charities.'



Even dogs took part in the Kiltwalk.

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Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

MAY



A house martin.
Photo by Brian Couper

Help monitor the rise in house martins on Arran

House martins undertake incredible journeys from south of the Sahara to reach our shores to breed

House martins are summer visitors to Arran. They undertake incredible journeys from south of the Sahara to reach our shores to breed. Their nests can take up to ten days to build and use over 1,000 beak sized pellets of mud. Many of us marvel at this effort and respect these delightful birds and their nests which are so much a feature of summer on Arran but for how much longer?

The house martin population across the UK is changing. From long term monitoring data held by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), while there was a 69 per cent decrease in house martin abundance across England between 1967-2012, there was a 125 per cent increase in Scotland between 1994-2013. The attached map shows this change in breeding abundance between the national atlas of 1988-1991 and the more recent one held 20 years later in 2008-2011. Here on Arran, there have been increases in line with other parts of the north and west of the UK.

Why? We do not know. The changes across the UK may be being influenced by changes in insect abundance, nest site availability, problems in wintering grounds and changes in timing of migration. In an attempt to find out more and to increase our understanding of these changes in the house martin population, the BTO is organising a house martin survey over the next two breeding seasons. It is looking for volunteers and it is easy to take part.

In 2015, randomly selected 1km squares across the UK are being surveyed. Each square would be visited two or three times in June and July and straightforward data collected. There are a small number of squares on Arran. In 2016 the study is to focus on individual nests and there will be an opportunity for

more people to take part. The BTO is looking for volunteers for both parts of the study. If you would like to find out more or if you would like to take part, visit this website <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/house-martin-survey> or contact me to get more information. There is a leaflet available that would be of particular interest to homeowners http://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/u25/BTO_HMS_final_web_version%20%281%29.pdf

Also online there are a wide range of resources available to help volunteers: <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/house-martin-survey/house-martin-survey-2015/resources>

On this link are instructions, forms, frequently asked questions and guidelines. Alongside this, in an attempt

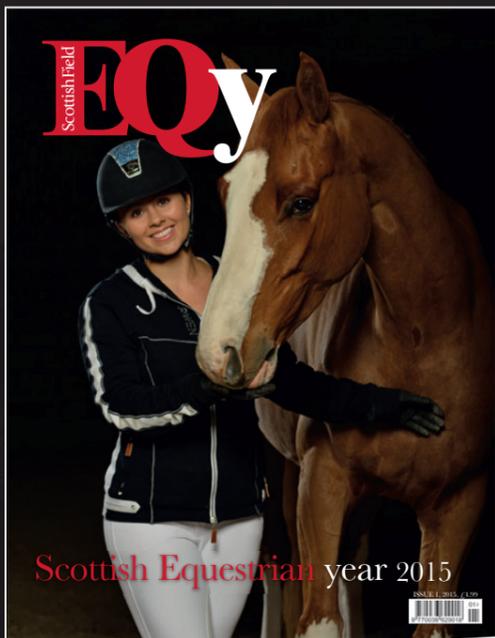
to record every house martin nesting area on Arran, please send me all records of house martin in your buildings or buildings in your area throughout the summer, including location, number of birds, number of nests, number of broods and number of young fledged. I will collate this data and forward it to the BTO on behalf of the Arran Natural History Society.

Enjoy your birding. Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk. I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 as well as the Arran Bird Report 2014 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk

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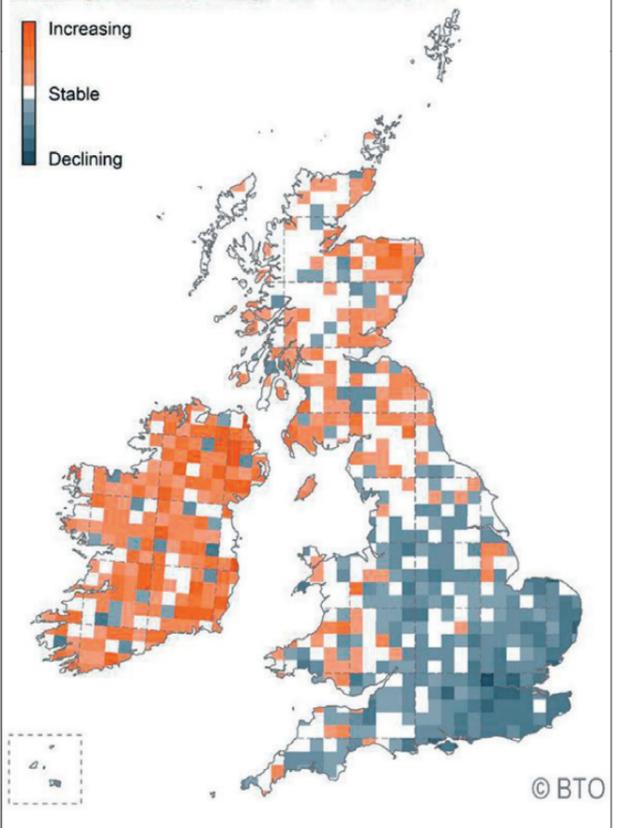
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Breeding Abundance Change 1988-91 to 2008-11



Map showing the change in breeding abundance of the house martin.

THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 13 May, 1995

Flying the flag

Arran may not have gone overboard marking the 50th anniversary of VE day, but in a few areas it rose to the occasion.

Kilmory, above all, came up with ideas and in a variety of activities, not only brought the community together with the older people remembering 1945, but at the same time provided a hands-on history lesson for the primary school children.

A number of people had union flags hung out and Shiskine and Whiting Bay both had street parties which, for all the world, could have passed for one of those ubiquitous pictures from the street parties from 1945.

Tables were out in Ladeside Place, Shiskine. pendants were flying across the street, kids were waving flags, dads were cooking hamburgers and mums were laying the tables. And, perhaps providing more atmosphere than anything else, was the loud 1940s music blaring out from the loudspeakers.

Not fast tracked

Planning officials at Cunninghame District Council have hit back at claims that the proposed Discovery Centre at Machrie is being 'pushed through on the fast track' as has been claimed.

Director of Planning Rob Loney this week has made a robust defence of the consultation which has taken place and rebuttal of the 'fast track' accusation. Mr Loney has outlined how the local plan and the structure plan have identified Machrie and Shiskine as being places offering opportunities for tourism development.

He outlined CDC's discussions with the bodies who are paying for it and explained there have been notices in The Banner and exhibitions of the plans which have taken

place. Mr Loney says he has also offered to meet with several local committees to discuss it.

He said: 'I am sure the proposed development will bring considerable benefit to Arran and will help in distributing the benefits of tourism to part of the island which has perhaps not been in the forefront of tourist spending.'

Whisky developments

The new distillery at Lochranza has its mash tuns and stills safely installed and now the roof is almost complete.

In other developments Gordon Mitchell has been appointed head distiller.

He has worked in the whisky industry for more than 30 years, and the company is now advertising for staff.

Whisky should be in production by sometime in June and an official opening ceremony has been scheduled for 18 August. The reason for the delay is that they hope the grass will grow over the landscaped area before then.

Most people's reaction on seeing the new building going up is that it is much smaller than they expected and also much closer to the road.

New look bank

The Bank of Scotland in Brodick is not yet complete, but this week bank staff moved back into the old bank area while the former manager's house is being converted and upgraded prior to becoming part of the bank.

Customers entering the bank have been astonished at the change so far, at the space, at the streamlined appearance and as one person said: 'How you now sit down to pay in your money.'



Above: The spirit of '45 at the street party in Ladeside Place. b18twe01



Left: Patriotic swinger Liam Turbett. b18twe03



Patriotic children at Ladeside Place. b18twe02



The Auld Arran team, which were the beaten finalists in the Arran Haulage Cup b18twe05



Iain Small presents the Arran Haulage Cup to Dougie Macfarlane after Lamlash won the competition. b18twe04

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com



Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing
 Brodick Castle, Garden Open
 Arran Brewery
 Arran Brewery tour
 Lamlash Tennis Courts/Putting Green
 Arran Heritage Museum, Rosaburn,

Saturday 9th May

Army Cadets
 Over 21s Disco
 Family Games
 Fun in the pool
 Live music
 Brodick Bowling Club Rink game
 Brodick Market
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game
 Dr Grahams Homes Coffee Morning
 House contents sale

Sunday 10th May

Family Games
 Fun in the pool
 AA Meeting
 Open Session - All musicians & Singers welcome
 House contents sale

Monday 11th May

Over 50s Badminton
 Badminton
 Morning Fitness
 Table Tennis
 Badminton
 Arran Junior Football Club
 Yoga
 Circuit Training
 Brodick Bowling Club Rink game
 Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game
 10/10 Total Body workout
 Citizens advice
 Lamlash Aerobix
 Lunch Club

Tuesday 12th May

Pop Quiz
 Auchrannie Winter Bowls
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Youth Club
 Rotary club
 Healthy Outdoors
 Garden Walk
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 RunArran
 Bridge for beginners

Loch Garbad, bank & boat fishing
 9am-Dusk
 Mon - Sat: 10am - 5pm, Sun: 12.30 - 5pm
 2pm (limited spaces call for availability)
 Open all day
 Brodick, 10.30am to 4.30pm

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1 pm.
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 8pm
 Brodick bowling club, 2pm
 Auchrannie Road, Brodick, 10-4.30pm
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm
 Lamlash Bowling club, 2pm
 Corrie Village Hall, 10.30am - 12noon
 Whitehill, Corriegills, Brodick, 11am - 4pm

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
 Brodick church hall, 5pm-6.30pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm
 Whitehill, Corriegills, Brodick, 11am - 4pm

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
 Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
 Corrie Village Hall, 11am - 12 noon
 Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm
 Brodick bowling club, 6.45pm
 Lamlash Bowling club, 7pm
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 6.45pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30am - 1.30pm
 Arran High School Dance Studio, 7pm
 Brodick Sheltered Housing, 12.30pm

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Auchrannie 7pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
 Kildonan Hall, 7pm
 Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm
 NTS Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm
 NTS Ranger Centre, 2pm - 3pm
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm
 Hospital Hill car park, Lamlash, 5.30pm
 Learning Centre, Lamlash 7-9pm

Scottish Country Dancing
 Metafit
 Lunch club

Wednesday 13th May

Rock & Pop Bingo
 Tae Kwondo
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Arran Brass Rehearsal
 Yoga
 Hydrofit
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service
 RunArran
 Yoga-Arran
 Junior Tennis
 Drift Inn Quiz
 Mixed Hockey
 Coffee Morning
 Dog classes
 Brodick Bowling Club Rink game
 Knitting & Crochet drop in group
 Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game

Thursday 14th May

Morning Fitness
 General Knowledge Quiz
 Folk, Country, Bluesy Night with Cams & Friends
 Yoga
 Bridge Club
 Ladies Hockey
 RunArran Beginners
 Cardiac Rehab
 Adult Tennis
 Body & Mind
 Country Park Volunteer Day
 QuiltArran
 Auchrannie Winter Bowls
 Spin off AGM: Bring & share lunch

Friday 15th May

Yoga
 Hydrofit
 Arran Youth Foundations
 Live music
 Lochranza Kids Badminton
 Lochranza Adults Badminton
 Quiz
 Family fun night
 Brodick Market
 AA Meeting
 Live music
 Tae Kwondo

All Stages, Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 6pm
 Brodick Sheltered Housing, 12.30pm

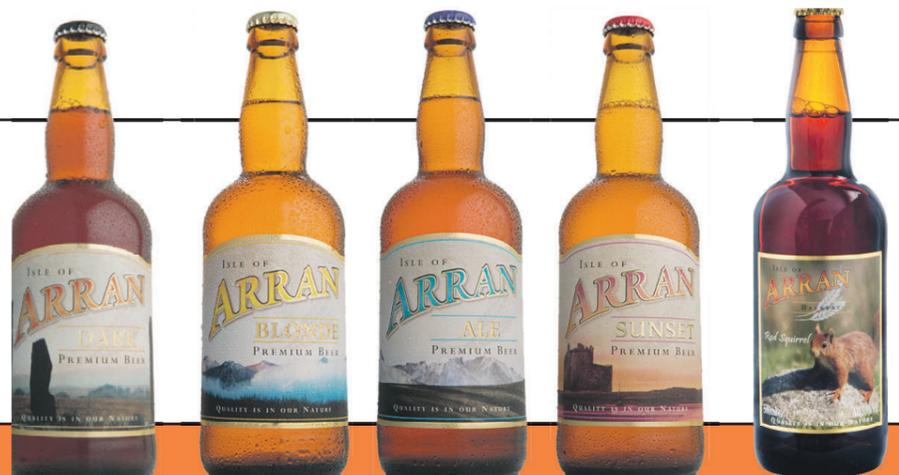
Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm
 Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm
 Auchrannie Studio, 9am-10am
 Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 10.15 - 11.15am
 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
 Auchrannie car park, 5.30pm
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
 Shiskine Golf & Tennis club, 4.30pm
 Lamlash, 9pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30-9pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15am - 12noon
 Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm
 Brodick bowling club, 6.45pm
 Brodick Library, 4pm - 6pm
 Lamlash Bowling club, 7pm

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Corrie Village Hall, 6pm - 7pm
 Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 7pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30-8.30pm
 Auchrannie Car Park, Brodick, 5.30pm
 Auchrannie leisure club, 2-3.30pm
 Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club, 5.30pm
 Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 6-7pm
 Brodick Castle, 10am - 4pm
 Lamlash Fire Station, 2-4.30pm
 Auchrannie, 7pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 10.30am - 3.30pm

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9am - 10am
 Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 10.15 - 11.15am
 Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 8pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
 Lochranza Hall, 8pm
 Whiting Bay Golf Club, 8pm
 Brodick Golf Club 4.45pm
 Auchrannie Road, Brodick, 10-4.30pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 8pm
 Arran High School, Lamlash Adults, 7pm - 8.30pm



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Kenneth Gibson MSP
 will hold advice surgeries at the following times and locations.

Monday 11 May	
Whiting Bay Village Hall	11.15-12.15
Kilmory Village Hall	13.00-14.00
Brodick Health Centre	15.00-16.00
Monday 29 June	
Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall	11.30 -12.30
Shiskine Village Hall	13.30 -14.30
ACVS Office, Park Terrace, Lamlash	15.00 -16.00

No appointment necessary
 To contact Kenneth outside these times, please contact his constituency office:
 15 Main Street, Dalry, KA24 5DL Tel: 01294 833 687 Facebook [Kenneth.gibsonmsp](https://www.facebook.com/Kenneth.GibsonMSP)
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ISLE OF ARRAN FERRY COMMITTEE
 To be held in the Arran Mountain Rescue Centre, Brodick on Monday 8th June at 1900hrs.
 Nominations are invited for election of representative of The Independent Traveller and should be submitted with name and address, proposed and seconded, to Mr Robert Waine, Kinloch Hotel, Blackwaterfoot KA27 8ET

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Classifieds

OVER £30

Laser Dinghy with launching trolley and spare sail £1450 Tel: 07581 854879 Chainsaw - Husqvarne £90, Strimmer large £90, Cooker - gas £60, House safe £90, Washing machine excellent 10 months old £90 Tel: 07980 671267 W/Bay

Vauxhall Corsa 5Dr hatchback - W Reg, MOT until Oct. Any reasonable offer Tel: 700241

Retail shop refrigerated display. Suitable for milk, cheese etc. 2m wide, would exchange for smaller - only 1m wide. Tel 302272

UNDER £30

Travel Cot with duvet and linen £20, Shower Chair £15, Baby

Bath plus potty and child toilet seat £5, 2 X Jerry Can 20ltr £15, Scroll Saw 16" with spare blades £30 Tel 850236

Mircowave as new £25, u.s. Mail boxes £25, mountain bikes assorted £30 each Tel: 07980671267 W/Bay
Cordless drill - 16V £25, Black & Decker electric hedge cutter £30, Electric Strimmer £30 Tel: 07792452814

Walnut and glass china cabinet, good condition. £30. Tel 700727

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Double divan bed base. Tel 700727

Single timber garage, good condition. Tel 0793 306181

Grazing available in Whiting Bay

on the Arran Community Land Initiative site.

If interested please contact:
development@arranland.org

HOUSE CONTENTS SALE

At
Whitehill, Corriegills
on Saturday 9th May and Sunday 10th May from
11am till 4pm
Beds, furniture, bric-a-brac, linen etc

Tel: 302412

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 10th May
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
Mrs Janis Gallagher.
Coffee after service.
Wednesday 13th May
Holy Communion, 12.15pm.
ALL WELCOME

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine
Independent but working together
Minister:
Rev Angus Adamson
Parish Assistant:
Mrs Jean Hunter:
Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times to which all are invited.
Sunday 10th May
Lochranza and Pirmill Churches, 10.15am
Morning worship including Celebration of the Lord's Supper at Lochranza.
Shiskine Church, 12noon
Morning worship including Celebration of the Lord's Supper.
Brodick Church, 10.30am
Morning Worship.
Corrie Church, 11.30am
Prayer Meeting,
12noon Morning Worship.
There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 10th May
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30 am
Rev. Lily McKinnon
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 10th May
Morning Service, 11am
Trust Housing Lounge,
Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 13th May
at 7pm
5 Glen Road
All welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

Quakers meet every Sunday at 11am. For meeting venue ring - 830622, 820223

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number SC014005)
Sunday 10th May
Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson at 10.30am.
Tea and coffee will be served in the transept after the service.
Traidcraft goods will be on sale after the service.
All most welcome.
Christian Aid Week begins on 10th May.
Please give generously to help those in need.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Vigil Mass: Saturday 7.30pm
Sunday Morning Mass 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 10th May
11am Morning worship in the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick
Tea and Coffee after the service.
Wednesday at 7.30pm
Home Fellowship Group for Bible Study and Prayer.
Contact phone no 600222
Everyone warmly invited

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 10th May
Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
Brodick 7pm (Church behind post office)
Rev Malcolm Peters

Anyone for cricket?

With the new season almost here Sannox Cricket Club is struggling for players.

Now in a bid to encourage new players they will be holding a free taster session for all comers on Tuesday 19 May at 7pm at the Ormidale Park all weather pitch in Brodick.

The club will provide equipment and cover the cost of the evening. The emphasis will be on fun and all are welcome.

The event is specifically aimed at those who enjoy participating in the club's annual fun day although it should be stressed that fancy dress is not required and there will not be a bar set up!

Further information is available on the club's Facebook page or by contacting Eric on 07786 906992, Chris on 07711 297674 or Tony on 07909 908994



Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday 30 April, ladies' Rock Plate and Stableford Medal, 15 played. Silver: 1 Katrina McKinlay 26pts, 2 Liz Kerr 24pts. Bronze: 1 Jerry Arthur 23pts, 2 Piet Johnston 22pts. Katrina and Liz win the Rock Plate - congratulations to them. Thursday 30 April, gents' Rock Plate, 14 played. 1 Phil Betley 27pts, 2 Jack McNally 26pts BIH, 3 Hamish Bannatyne 26pts. Magic twos P Betley at the 4th and Mike Adams at the 5th. Phil and Jack win the Rock Plate - well done. A great day and evening of golf and thanks to Simon and Sara for the wonderful food.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday 1 May, Stableford, CSS 35pts. 1 Scott MacFarlane 40pts, 2 Matt Harvey 36pts BIH, 3 Graeme Andrew 36pts, 4 Colin Richardson 34pts. Scratch Dougie MacFarlane 32pts to Stableford. Magic twos Scott MacFarlane at the 16th, Neel Young at the 16th. Seniors Medal. 1 Allan Martin 76-15=61. No magic twos recorded.

Belated congratulations to the Lamlash ladies team who were victorious in the Kiscadale Salver defeating Shiskine on the last day.

Fixtures: Friday 8 May AGA Seniors Bowl at 5pm. Sunday 10 May AGA Spring Handicap at Corrie GC, postponed from 3 May, same groups, late entries accepted.

Lamlash Golf Club (ladies section), Josie Sanderson Stableford played on Monday 4 May, CSS 66, par 65, 19 played. 1 Susan Butchard (10)36pts, 2 Jenny Patten-don(30) 33pts, 3 June Richardson(24)33pts.



Winner Susan Butchard being presented with the Josie Sanderson trophy by Lamlash captain Jackie Winship.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Wednesday 29 April, on a wet and blustery evening an elite field of golfers took to the course vying for the Richard Parfitt Stableford Trophy.

Conditions were far from ideal and those that played are to be congratulated on their skill and determination. The result was: 1 Nicol Auld (4)35pts, 2 Jamie Stewart (5)32pts, 3 Danny Head (5)30 pts, 4 David Morrison (9)24pts. Nicol also enjoyed the only magic two of the evening at the 17th.

A huge thank you to all who turned out for the fund-raising bingo night on Saturday 2 May. A total of £466 was raised for the club as well as having a night of fun and games. Special thanks to those who sponsored and donated prizes and there was a wonderful selection for the lucky winners. Thanks also to the generous bidders in the auction for the beautiful limited edition print, Arran Winter Dawn, kindly given by Nick Giles at Arran Art Gallery.

Finally thanks go to those who worked so hard on both sides of the bar to make the evening the success it was.

Fixtures: Sunday 10 May, Eric Wood Stableford, draws at 9am and 10.30am. Wednesday 13 May, Summer Trophy, round 4, evening draw at 5.30pm

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday 29 April, Summer Cup, 17 played, CSS 64.

After a horrendous morning's weather the course was finally opened at 3.30pm and, apart from a couple of brief showers, the players enjoyed a lovely evening. Well done to Gordon, who is becoming an almost permanent fixture on the leaderboards. 1 Gordon Hendry (5)63, Alistair Hume (11)64, Brian Smith (11)65acb. Scratch: Ewan McKinnon 64.

Amazingly with only 17 playing there were seven magic twos.



Jack McNally and Phil Betley won the gents Rock Plate at Shiskine.

Fixtures: Sunday 10 May, Brandon, open draws at 8.30am and 2pm. Note later start time in the afternoon, to allow the keen ones to play the postponed AGA Spring Handicap in the morning at Corrie, and the Brandon in the afternoon. Sunday 17 May, 1st round Club Championship qualifying.

Corrie Golf Club

Wednesday 29 April, sweep, five played, CSS 61. 1 L Hartley 77-16=61 BIH, 2 S Beardsley 86-7=61, Best scratch S Beardsley 68.

Saturday 2 May, Millennium Cup, 13 played, CSS 61. 1 A Smith 73-11=62, 2 L Hartley 79-16=63, 3 SA Beardsley 70-7=63. Best scratch J McConnachie 69. Natic two Barry King at the 1st.

Fixtures: Saturday 9 May, Summer Cup, 8.30am and 1pm. AGA spring meeting at Corrie which was cancelled due to heavy rain last Sunday will now be played on Sunday 10 May.

Machrie Golf Club

Saturday 2 May, Hugh Steel Cup, nine hole competition for over 60s, 10 played.

1 David Price 36-6.5=29.5, 2 Willie Kelso 37-3.5=33.5, 3 Douglas Johnston 46-12=34.

Current standings in the magic twos competition for 2015 are as follows: B Sherwood 8pts, M Hesp 7pts, P Betley 6pts, D Price 5 pts and H Bannatyne 4pts.

Arran Golfers Association

The First Round Seniors Bowl competition began on Friday 1 May at Lamlash Golf Club. The weather was superb and condition of the course faultless for the time of year; thanks to Jim and his boys for their efforts, and to Lamlash for hosting. Machrie, Brodick and Lochranza all won through



Katrina McKinlay won the ladies Rock Plate at Shiskine.

to the semi-finals which will be played again at Lamlash on Friday 8 May from 5pm. Draw: Lamlash v Lochranza, Machrie v Brodick.

The rescheduled Spring Handicap/Guy Spiers will now be played at Corrie Golf Club on Sunday 10 May with the same draw applying. Anyone not able to make their times or wanting a time please phone Eddie Cannon.

Thomson Matchplay at Corrie Golf Club draw will be made after the rescheduled Spring Handicap. First round by Sunday 17 May, second round by Sunday 31 May with the semi and finals day on Saturday 13 June 1pm and 6pm. Games can be played at neutral venue if agreed by the two players, Semi and Finals day will be at Corrie Golf Club.

Junior Matchplay semi finals to be played at an agreed course by 17 May, final will be played on 24 May at 5pm.

Arran Ladies Golf Union

A full report of the Kiscadale Tray 2015 competition and annual prizegiving will appear in next week's Banner.

The agm will be held at Lamlash Golf Club on Monday 18 May at 7.30pm.

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Five star Southend seal their semi-final spot in cup contest

Southend 5 Northend 0

The new Arran football season got under way this week.

On Monday night it kicked off with the preliminary stage of the Arran Haulage Cup when Southend took on Northend at Sandbraes with a semi-final against Shiskine up for grabs.

Counter attack

Southend dominated most of the chances at the start but Northend also came close on the counter attack, most notably from young Peter Gilson.

However, it was Southend who scored first with Ryan

Armstrong improvising to chest the ball in from a corner.

Lewis Kennedy made it two not long after with a low shot past Peet Hollingworth in the Northend goal.

In the second half, Sandy Kelso swung in a sliced cross from the sideline, about 40 yards out. The result was the ball lobbing Peet to make it 3-0.

Donnie Park then grabbed a fourth with Peet getting a hand to it, but the strike was too powerful to keep out.

The fifth goal was well worked between substitute

Ruairidh 'Rawhide' Hamilton and Dave Morrison before Adam 'Heff' Kelso slotted it home to complete the scoring.

Well deserved

Referee Sam Tattersfield gave Donnie the man of the match award, very well deserved for his work rate and dominating play in the mid-field.

Southend now play Shiskine at Sandbraes on Monday 11 May at 6.30pm.

Last year's champions Brodick play Lamlash at Arran high school at the same time.



Above:
Southend on the attack.
20_b19footy03

Right: The Northend team who played well in patches. 20_b19footy02



The Southend team and back up squad at the start of the new season. 20_b19footy01



Arran one win away from promotion

Loch Lomond 5 Arran 25

Arran RFC need a win against Millbrae in their final game of the season this Saturday in Brodick to secure promotion.

This follows a gutsy performance against a gritty Loch Lomond team last weekend saw them pick up more points.

Arran, despite playing with a strong breeze behind them,

took a while to get into their stride but after some good work from the pack and very good tactical field kicking from stand off Jones, the pressure soon built and the home team conceded a couple of penalties which were punished by the number 10.

Following further pressure from some good interlinking between forwards and backs Arran's number 3 charged over for a try from a lineout.

Not long after, some strong running saw inside centre Kyle Barbour go over with Arran going in at half time 0-18 to the good.

The second half started with the home team upping their game and it wasn't long, despite some great tackling from Arran, that the home side's number 3 crashed over for a try.

The game then became a much tighter affair with both

teams trying to gain territory and it was actually against the run of play that Barbour once again broke free and crossed for his second score of the match.

This now makes Saturday's match one of the biggest the club has been involved and they are urging everyone to come along and support the team. There is an early kick off at 1pm at Ormidale Park in Brodick.

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